2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Working paper on disarmament and non-proliferation education

Submitted by Egypt, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland and Sweden

I. Introduction

1. The purpose of the present paper is to build on the working paper on disarmament and non-proliferation education (NPT/CONF.2005/PC.III/WP.17), submitted to the Third Preparatory Committee for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) by Egypt, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Poland and Sweden.

2. Disarmament and non-proliferation education can ensure the continuation of institutional knowledge, and assist those working on NPT issues to understand the Treaty and its regime as a whole. Furthermore, it will assist NPT States parties in increasing awareness of new and all dangers posed by nuclear weapons, and inform the public of actions being carried out by Governments, diplomats and international institutions to this end.

II. Recommendations

3. Co-sponsor countries:

(a) Recognize that education on disarmament and non-proliferation is important to make progress towards the full implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation obligations under the NPT;

(b) Underline the importance of the recommendations in the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

(c) Stress that the successful implementation of the United Nations study recommendations will require an active partnership among national governments, regional and international organizations, academic institutions and civil society;

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(d) Encourage States parties to make efforts in the following areas, among others:

(i) To support disarmament and non-proliferation education activities of the United Nations, regional and international organizations, civil society, academic institutions and the media, in pursuit of their implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study;

(ii) To develop, enhance and support disarmament and non-proliferation activities and educational and training courses in cooperation with relevant regional and international organizations, civil society, academic institutions and the media, in the public as well as the private sector, including the provision of fellowships, internship programmes and on-the-job training;

(iii) To prepare, adapt and disseminate user-friendly disarmament and non-proliferation education materials, in cooperation with regional and international organizations, civil society, academic institutions, the nuclear industry and the media, to audiences at all education levels through translation and the use of new technologies, including electronic means;

(iv) To cooperate with academic institutions to develop model curriculum materials addressing the issues and consequences of proliferation and the importance of disarmament, and provide the opportunity for government officials and parliamentarians to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki museums and libraries, with a particular emphasis on the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons to increase awareness of the real dangers they pose;

(v) To designate a focal point for disarmament and non-proliferation education and training and to inform the Department for Disarmament Affairs on steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in the United Nations study;

(e) Call upon the Conference, drawing on the points outlined in this paper, to encourage States parties to undertake concrete activities to implement, as appropriate, the United Nations study recommendations and to voluntarily share information on efforts they have been undertaking to this end.

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Japan's Efforts in Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education

Working Paper submitted by Japan

Introduction

1. The purpose of this working paper is to share Japan's efforts in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation education, as suggested in section II, paragraph 5 of our joint working paper (NPT/CONF.2005/WP.30), which encourages States to "*voluntarily share information on efforts they have been undertaking to this end*".

Japan's efforts

2. Japan has chosen to establish its position in the international community as a nation dedicated to peace, aiming at a safe world free of nuclear weapons. As the only country to have experienced devastation from nuclear bombings, Japan is committed to ensuring that the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki never be forgotten. With this aim, Japan places utmost importance on disarmament and non-proliferation education, especially for the younger generation.

3. The following illustrates Japan's efforts in this field.

United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme

4. Following a decision taken at the first special session of the General Assembly in 1978, the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme was implemented for the first time in 1979 to train experts, mainly from developing countries, on disarmament issues. Various Government officials and international civil servants participate in the programme for around three months, whereby they receive training at the United Nations Headquarters and the Geneva Conference on Disarmament and deepen their knowledge in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation by visiting international organizations, research institutions and relevant countries.

5. Japan has been inviting around 25 participants to Japan each year since 1983, amounting to a total of more than 550 participants to date. Participants receive briefings on the disarmament and non-proliferation policies of Japan. The programme includes a visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to learn about Japan as the

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only country to have suffered from the devastation of the atomic bombs, and to gain an insight into the reality of atomic bombings. A large number of diplomats who have participated in the Fellowship Programme are now actively working on the front line of global disarmament diplomacy. Japan will continue to actively contribute to this programme.

United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues

6. Regional disarmament conferences are an effective means to enhance awareness of the importance of disarmament at a regional level. Japan has sponsored a United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in a different local city each year since 1989, providing a valuable opportunity for distinguished disarmament experts from around the world to engage in useful discussions. Last year's United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues was held in Sapporo in July under the theme "Mounting challenges to peace and security and disarmament today" and gave rise to a very meaningful exchange of views. This year's Conference is to be held from 17 to 19 August in Kyoto.

Citizen's forum on disarmament and non-proliferation education

7. In August 2003, during the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues held in Osaka, a citizen's forum on disarmament and non-proliferation education was held with the participation of 50 teachers from primary, junior-high and high schools in Osaka, officials of international organizations, as well as various experts on disarmament and non-proliferation. A citizen's forum on disarmament and non-proliferation education was also held in July 2004 during the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Sapporo, and active discussion took place between teachers and experts.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs materials

8. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has been taking concrete steps to disseminate information on various efforts it has been making in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. A paper entitled "Japan's disarmament policy" was published in 2002 in Japanese, followed by an English version in 2003. In 2004, an updated edition, "Japan's disarmament and non-proliferation policy", was published in both Japanese and English. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also established, and regularly updates, a comprehensive homepage with readily available information on Japan's activities in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Submission of a working paper on disarmament and non-proliferation education to the Preparatory Committees for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

9. Japan jointly submitted working papers on disarmament and non-proliferation education to the second and third Preparatory Committees for the 2005 Review Conference, underlining the importance of education as a tool for strengthening disarmament and non-proliferation for future generations.

Participation in the United Nations Governmental Experts Group on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education

10. Japan participated in the Group of Governmental Experts on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education, established following the Fifty-fifth General Assembly resolution adopted in August 2000, requesting the Secretary-General to prepare a study towards the advancement of disarmament and non-proliferation. The Group submitted a report to the Secretary-General two years later containing a series of recommendations for immediate and long-term implementation, which formed the basis for the draft resolutions adopted at the General Assembly in 2002 and 2004.

Inviting disarmament experts and *Hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivors)

11. Based on the recommendations from the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, Japan invited an American nuclear disarmament education expert and representative of Educators for Social Responsibility, Dr. Kathleen Sullivan, to conduct a nuclear disarmament education tour in Japan in November 2002, working with high school students, civic leaders and *Hibakusha* in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Tokyo. Furthermore, in January 2004, Dr. Natalie Goldring from the Programme on Global Security and Disarmament at the University of Maryland, and in February 2005, Professor William Potter from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, were also invited to Japan to give lectures on disarmament and non-proliferation.

12. Atomic bomb survivors (*Hibakusha*) share their experiences first-hand through visits to schools and by providing guided visits to monuments and A-bombed landmarks. Speaking from personal experience, the survivors educate students and the public in a culture of peace by creating an awareness of the devastation caused by nuclear weapons.

Disarmament and non-proliferation seminar

13. The Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in Japan held a Disarmament and Non-Proliferation seminar in March 2004, for two and a half days, with the aim of deepening understanding of recent disarmament and non-proliferation trends, mainly for those considering taking active roles in this field in the future. A seminar was also held over three days in August-September 2004 with a series of presentations covering a variety of related issues, resulting in a lively exchange between participants. Furthermore, lecturers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also attended the seminar. The promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation is an important pillar of Japan's foreign policy, as the spread of fundamental knowledge and the training of experts through disarmament and non-proliferation education is indispensable.

Peace efforts and peace education

14. Among United Nations recommendations, the creation of peace cities through the establishment of, for example, peace parks, peace museums and websites, is encouraged. Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the only cities to have suffered from the devastation of atomic bombs, are dedicated to peace as they seek to convey their experiences to the world in order to prevent the recurrence of such a tragedy. Both cities hold a yearly peace ceremony, which gathers people from Japan and all over the world. The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively deliver a peace

declaration each year at the ceremony, appealing for peace and expressing the hope that nuclear weapons never be used again.

15. The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki launched the World Conference of Mayors for Peace (now known as Mayors for Peace) in 1982, to encourage cities to work together towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It convenes every four years in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with an ever-increasing number of member cities (currently standing at 736 cities in 110 countries and regions, including major cities in the nuclear-weapon States).

16. Peace museums play an important role in disarmament education. The most famous ones are the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum. The International Network of Peace Museums was created in 1992, enabling the worldwide exchange of information, exhibits and ideas among peace museums. The Japanese Network of Museums for Peace was established in 1994. Peace museums aid in disseminating information on disarmament through exhibitions and other activities in schools as well as in the wider community, and can play a pivotal role in disarmament education.

17. The cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki along with the International Peace Research Association have agreed, with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to cooperate actively to establish Hiroshima-Nagasaki peace study courses in universities around the world by sending peace education materials and lecturers, establishing university-level peace education models, and exchanging opinions and methodology.

18. Japan believes that the international community should be well informed of the destructive effects of nuclear weapons. In accordance with the wish of the people of Japan that such weapons never be used again, the Government of Japan has supported a number of efforts by local governments and NGOs to organize exhibitions relating to atomic bombs in foreign countries, including the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb exhibitions in Aubagne, France, in September 2004, and in Compton, United States of America, in March 2005.